

Top 10 Green Building Products 2010

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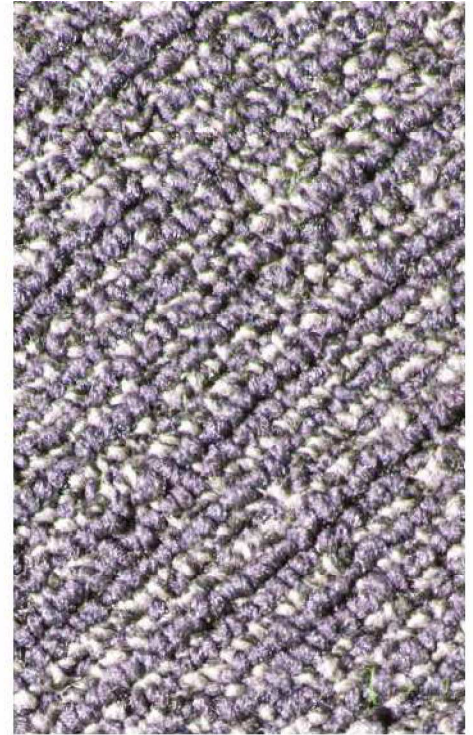


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70%
more energy efficient

100%
VOC-free paint

40%
recycled content



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ENERGY RECOVERY VENTILATOR

WHO MAKES IT: Building Performance Equipment Inc.

WEB SITE: www.lowkwh.com

WHERE IT'S MADE: New Jersey

Has potential to contribute to LEED-NC credits: EA1; IEQ 2

Reduced energy use and improved indoor air quality: New Jersey-based Building Performance Equipment, Inc. (BPE) says it combines those two tenets of green building into one product, the Energy Recovery Ventilator.

Commercial building owners typically spend about one-third of their HVAC-related energy use to condition outside air, according to BPE. BPE's ventilators reduce HVAC costs by pre-conditioning outside air, which saves on heating and cooling by reducing the amount of energy required to get the air to the proper indoor temperature.

Offering points toward Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification for both energy efficiency and indoor air quality, BPE's ventilators are reportedly about 90 percent efficient. The ventilators can save about 50 percent of total HVAC-related energy use, says BPE technical support engineer Alex Heckman. For a 100,000-square-foot building, that savings could be up to \$60,000 per year, according to the company.

BPE's ventilators are made from medical-grade polypropylene, which in addition to making them rustproof, means they're lightweight and easy to install. They weigh about the same as standard ductwork and generally don't demand additional structural supports for installation. They're also designed to last more than 20 years and require little maintenance, BPE says.

The ventilators, which are distributed through a network of independent sales representatives, work especially well for schools and other facilities that have fresh air requirements. They're also used in manufacturing, industrial and large commercial applications. The estimated return on investment is less than one year for industrial applications and less than three years for commercial applications, according to the company.